

Remarks

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the above-identified application, in view of the above amendments and the following remarks. Claims 4-11, 19 and 23 were previously pending in the application. Applicants have amended claims 4, 5, 8, 19, and 23 herein. No new matter has been entered by way of this amendment. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the above-identified application, in view of the above amendments and following remarks.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 4-11, 19 and 23 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e), as allegedly being anticipated by US Patent 6,633,795 to Suzuki, et al. (“Suzuki). Claims 4, 19, and 23 have been amended. Applicants respectfully submit that independent claims 4, 19 and 23 as amended, as well as the claims directly or indirectly dependent therefrom, are patentably distinct from the cited reference.

Amended independent claim 4 recites, *inter alia*:

“An environmental information system comprising:
product constitution storage means for ...;
parts raw material information means for storing *raw material of each part stored by said product constitution storage means* ...;
raw material environmental information storage means for storing *environmental information about an amount of each of the hazardous substance* included in each of the raw materials stored by said parts raw material information means;
obtaining means for ...; and
integrated environmental information forming means for forming *integrated environmental information including a total amount of each of the hazardous substance* of the designated product based on a result of the information obtained by said obtaining means.”

(emphasis added)

Applicants submit that Suzuki does not disclose, teach or suggest the elements recited in amended independent claim 4.

The Office Action stated that, in **Suzuki(US6,633,795)**, “weight or mass” can be allegedly read on the total amount of each of the hazardous substance. However, because “weight or mass” should be corresponds to a fragment of the cover 60, the cover 60 does not correspond to a whole product constituted by each of parts like the discarded television 21. In addition, MATERIAL/WEIGHT in Fig.7 is weight of each of part and neither that of product constituted by each of parts nor that of total of substance of a product.

Applicant submits Suzuki failed to disclose the claimed invention as recited in claim 4, in particular, the “environmental information about an amount of each of the hazardous substance” included in the raw material environmental information storage means and the “integrated environmental information including a total amount of each of the hazardous substance” included in the integrated environmental information forming means.

Accordingly, Applicants submit that “An environmental information system comprising: product constitution storage means for storing product constitution information including information about parts and raw materials constituting each product; parts raw material information means for storing raw material of each part stored by said product constitution storage means; raw material environmental information storage means for storing environmental information about an amount of each of the hazardous substance included in each of the raw materials stored by said parts raw material information means; obtaining means for obtaining information about each of the hazardous substance raw materials of parts which constitute a

designated product; and integrated environmental information forming means for forming integrated environmental information including a total amount of each of the hazardous substance of the designated product based on a result of the information obtained by said obtaining means” as recited in independent claim 4 is patentably distinct from the cited references for at least this reason.

For easy reference, in claim 4, product constitution storage means corresponds to numeral 32 in Fig.3, parts raw material information means corresponds to numeral 35 in Fig.3 and raw material environmental information storage means corresponds to numeral 36 in Fig.3. It can be applied to each element in Claim 19 and 23.

Applicants submit that independent claims 19 and 23 are patentably distinct from the cited reference for similar reasons. Further, Applicants submit that claims 5-11, which are directly or indirectly dependent on amended independent claim 4 are patentably distinct from the cited references for at least this reason. Therefore Applicants request withdrawal of this ground of rejections.

Application Serial No. 09/902,194
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CONCLUSION

Applicants respectfully reconsideration in view of the foregoing amendments and remarks. Further, Applicants respectfully submit that the claims as presented herein are allowable over the art of record and that the application is in condition for allowance, which action is earnestly solicited.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number below, should that in anyway facilitate prosecution.

Applicants believe no fee nor extension of time is required for this filing. However, should an extension of time be necessary to render this filing timely, such extension is hereby petitioned and the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required for this paper, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 13-4500, Order No. 1232-4736

Respectfully submitted,
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